

CRL 57017

The **LAUGH** of the Party





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STEVE ALLEN • BUDDY HACKETT
PHIL FOSTER
Brooklyn's Ambassador to the U. S. A.
HARVEY STONE • TOM D'ANDREA and
HAL MARCH
BOB and RAY • JACKIE MILES
HENNY YOUNGMAN • JIMMIE KOMACK
HERMIONE GINGOLD
and BILLY DE WOLFE
EDDIE LAWRENCE

STEVE ALLEN

BUDDY HACKETT

PHIL FOSTER

HARVEY STONE

TOM D'ANDREA

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HENNY YOUNGMAN

BILLY DE WOLFE

EDDIE LAWRENCE

JIMMIE KOMACK

How would you like to give (or attend) a party which included some of the funniest entertainers in show business? Well, you can, for here they are. This record presents a group of top-flight comedians who have been literally the laugh, as well as the life, of the party—people who have kept audience after audience in stitches with their hilarious acts and monologs. They are, in the order of their appearances, as follows:

STEVE ALLEN—Steve is one of the most versatile entertainers in the entertainment world. Known as "the best Allen since Fred," Steve manages to be informal and informative, serious, clever, unpredictable—and downright funny—every night in the week. Listeners to his own show marvel at the spontaneous ad-libs uttered by a bespectacled young man (he is only thirty-two) roaming around a cluttered studio seemingly talking to himself. Both his mother and his father were in show business—his mother was the well-known comedienne, Belle Montrose, and his father, Billy Allen, was a singer and straight man. Steve carries on the tradition—carries it further by also being a composer, and the man who started the craze for bebop-lingo fairy tales.

BUDDY HACKETT—Buddy is a master of the rapid-fire routine which includes pantomime as well as running gags. He was born in Brooklyn in 1924, and immediately began accumulating weight. Before he got out of high school he tipped the scales at 220 pounds and starred on the football team. Hesitating between an athletic and a theatrical career, he decided on the latter. Like many others he made his debut on the Borscht circuit in the Catskill Mountains; in between engagements he worked as a truck driver, lumber salesman, and upholsterer. Playing club dates he struck his stride, one of his most popular numbers being "The Chinese Waiter" recorded here.

PHIL FOSTER—Phil deserves his title of "Brooklyn's Ambassador to the U.S.A." Since his professional debut in 1938 Phil has rocked audiences with his tall tales told in pure Brooklynesse. A graduate of the Borscht circuit, his dialect is as pure as it is persuasive—his admirers can be found all around the wide belt of popular niteries from New York to Reno, from the Copa to Slapsie Maxie's in Los Angeles. As a monologist, Phil writes almost all of his own material—which is one reason why it is so full of laughs.

HARVEY STONE—Harvey, who has been tagged the "No. 1 comedian of World War 2," is a native of Detroit. The depression forced him to become a shoe salesman, and he got into show business when he won an amateur contest. He first attracted national notice while still in the army, due to his success at entertaining the troops and at benefits. Since his return to civilian life, Harvey has become a night club and T.V. favorite.

TOM D'ANDREA—Tom is a GI who managed to cash in on his army experiences. Serving his country, Tom gathered enough material about life in the lower echelons to write T.V. scripts that entertained countless audiences. Born in Chicago, Tom distinguished himself as a writer, director and actor, as well as free-lance press agent, before going into the army. When he was transferred to the Air Corps, he wrote and staged a musical entitled "A.W.O.L."—short for "A World of Laughs." Back in civilian life, Tom continued as a writer, monologist, and wit.

HAL MARCH—Hal, born in San Francisco, was bitten by the acting bug at the age of 12. After being rebuffed by Hollywood, he became an amateur welterweight boxer, script-writer, night club entertainer, disc jockey and, after a persistent upward struggle, a featured performer of some of the nation's most popular radio and T.V. shows. At 35, he was awarded the coveted assignment of Master of Ceremonies for the big "\$64,000 Question" television program.

BOB & RAY—Bob and Ray dispense information with an easy hand—four easy hands, to be exact. The only trouble is that the information is all wrong. Asked for a brief biography, the pair sent in the following data: "At 73, Ray Goulding says he doesn't feel a day over 70, and Bob Elliott is the picture of health at 71. Ray weighs a little over 432 pounds, but this is offset by the fact that he stands 4'3". Bob tips the scales at 94. Ray's hobbies are chair-caning, collecting medieval robots, and lepidoptery. Bob is an ardent apiarist, working a few hours daily at silk-screen printing, and, when there's time, pursuing his studies at the clavichord. Both are crazy." Actually, Bob and Ray, both of whom were born in Massachusetts, have troubled the New York air waves since 1951. Prior to joining WINS in 1954, they had their own NBC radio and television show, all of which not only delighted but confused their listeners.

JACKIE MILES—Jackie went from the drawing board to the boards of the theatre. He supported himself as a commercial artist until his talent for writing comedy material brought him to the attention of night club stars. He composed gags and skits for Joe E. Lewis, Harry Richman, and other top-notchers—and it was not long before he got out on the floor and started doing the routines himself. He was a success from the beginning; he startled the skeptics with his personal blend of physical and mental humor.

HENNY YOUNGMAN—Henny, one of the fastest men with a gag, was intended to be not a comedian but a violinist. His parents planned to make their son another Heifetz and bought a lot of Heifetz records to show the lad how the violin should be played. Unfortunately for the classics, a few second-hand records of Joe Venuti found their way into the Youngman household, and Henny switched from Bach to Basin Street. Soon he organized his own neighborhood band, which the neighborhood failed to appreciate. When the "Flatbush Hot-Shots" broke up, Henny decided to try comedy. For a couple of years he knocked around in small cabarets, shady speakeasies and other suspicious hideaways. Finally, he caught on at New York's Yacht Club, was brought to the attention of Kate Smith, became a guest star, and was hailed as a great comedy favorite. Today he is a familiar figure on Broadway, on radio, television and in Hollywood.

HERMIONE GINGOLD—Miss Gingold is Great Britain's gift to the American stage. Ever since she appeared in pantomime at the age of 11, she has been hailed with one superlative after another. The London critics called her "The Spirit of Surrealist Sophistication," the "Quintessence of the Comic Muse," and "England's Debunker-in-Chief." *Vogue Magazine* announced that she was the "funniest Woman in the World." Although she began as a serious actress, Hermione Gingold turned to comedy in "The Gate Revue" with a set of amazing caricatures. Ever since then, she has continued to be regarded as one of the world's great comic entertainers.

BILLY DE WOLFE—Billy was born Bill Jones. His parents were ardent Baptists and, when their son became leader in Christian Endeavor at the church, they hoped he would become a minister. Billy says that it was only the ham in him coming out and, after working as an usher in a Boston theatre, Billy worked out a routine of his own. He went to Europe, was featured in several Cochran productions, returned to play at New York's swank Rainbow Room, and was snapped up by Hollywood. After serving 20 months in the Navy, he appeared in several films, co-starred with Hermione Gingold in John Murray Anderson's "Almanac," and added an imposing array of press notices to his other plaudits.

EDDIE LAWRENCE—Eddie is an unusual comedian in many ways. For one thing, he writes his own material. For another thing he is devoted to art—he spent a year in Europe studying painting. Coming back to the United States, he was featured on the Kay Kyser and Victor Borge TV shows, after which he returned to Europe for two more years of painting. Eddie has won his theatrical spurs as a comic—he had been featured before he was drafted into the army—and upon his return to America he waxed the sly and satiric "In Old, Old Vienna" for Coral.

SELECTIONS INCLUDE:

Side One

- 1. VERY SQUARE DANCE** Steve Allen
Steve Allen
- 2. THE CHINESE WAITER** Buddy Hackett
Buddy Hackett
- 3. THE KIDS ON THE CORNER** Phil Foster
Intro: That Old Gang of Mine
Ray Henderson-Billy Rose-Mort Dixon
Phil Foster
- 4. LOIS** Harvey Stone
Harvey Stone
- 5. GOIN' OVERSEAS** Tom D'Andrea and Hal March
George Cates-Tom D'Andrea-Hal March
- 6. THE WORLD NEWS ROUNDUP** Bob and Ray Bob Elliot-Ray Goulding

Side Two

- 1. I'M A ROLLIN'** Jackie Miles Jackie Miles-Sunny Skylar
- 2. THE LIFE STORY OF HENNY YOUNGMAN** Henny Youngman Henny Youngman
- 3. THEM "THE ENEMY"** Jimmie Komack
Jimmie Komack
- 4. TEA AND CEYLON** Oxford St. John
Hermione Gingold and Billy De Wolfe
- 5. OLD, OLD VIENNA** Eddie Lawrence
Eddie Lawrence

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BOB AND RAY

Side 1

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(Ray Henderson-Billy Rose-Mort Dixon)
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THE LAUGH OF THE PARTY

JACKIE MILES - HENNY YOUNGMAN - JIMMIE KOMACK -
HERMIONE GINGOLD AND BILLY DE WOLFE -
EDDIE LAWRENCE

Side 2

MG 4130

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1. I'M A ROLLIN' (Jackie Miles-Sunny Skylar)
2. THE LIFE STORY OF HENNY YOUNGMAN
(Henny Youngman)
3. THEM "THE ENEMY"
(Jimmie Komack)
4. TEA AND CEYLON
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5. OLD, OLD VIENNA
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